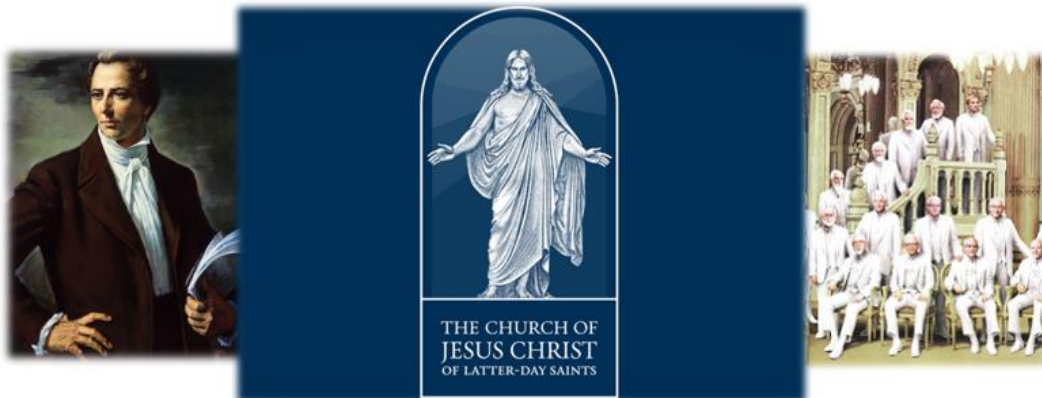


# EXPOSING THE MORMON CHURCH: **FALSE PROPHETS**

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**The Mormon Church, renamed as The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS), claims to be the one and only *true* Christian church in existence. Their core belief is that their prophet, Joseph Smith, along with his writings, have brought the Word of God and church beliefs, doctrine, and practice into its fully intended and “restored” state. In Mormon faith, Mormons believe Christianity and the Holy Bible have been altered, corrupted, and deemed as “abominable”.**



**The purpose of this article is to provide factual and reliable information to modern day Christians, and members of the LDS (Mormon) church, regarding the false claims made by Mormon prophets. A major role the Bible calls of us all is to have a ready defense for the gospel - especially when a heretical church sends missionaries to your door to convince you of the fallacy of God’s Word and to join their “true church”.**

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## DISCLAIMER

One role of the Christian believer in Jesus Christ is to never pass judgement nor bring condemnation on anyone. We are called to love everyone, even our enemies. Most members of the LDS Church are wonderfully kind people who are of the many that are deceived and lost in this world. They should be treated with a gentle yet firm attitude.

## Criteria for a False Prophet

God, in His great care and protection, provides us a simple test of a false prophet: If what the prophet prophecies of a future event does not come true then that prophet is considered false and is not to be trusted, nor feared.

### **DEUTERONOMY 18:22**

**When a prophet speaks in the name of *Adonai*, and the prediction does not come true — that is, the word is not fulfilled — then *Adonai* did not speak that word. The prophet who said it spoke presumptuously; you have nothing to fear from him.**

## The Prophet Nephi

### **Overview**

Believed to be born in 615 B.C., the Prophet Nephi is a pivotal figure of the Book of Mormon. Nephi is credited with several of the major teachings of the Mormon belief system and is the claimed author of the information found in the first two books of the Book of Mormon. One of the more foundational claims of Nephi is that the early church and the bible itself were corrupted and that modern day Christian bibles lack credibility and is not worth trusting.

### **Prophetic Claims: The Unreliable Modern Day Christian Bible**

In 1 Nephi 13, Nephi claims that modern day bibles were corrupted by the early church and that “plain and precious” truths were removed from the scriptures. As a result, Mormons believe that modern Christians hold faith to scriptures that are invalid and lacking the fullness of God’s Word.



### **1 Nephi 13:26**

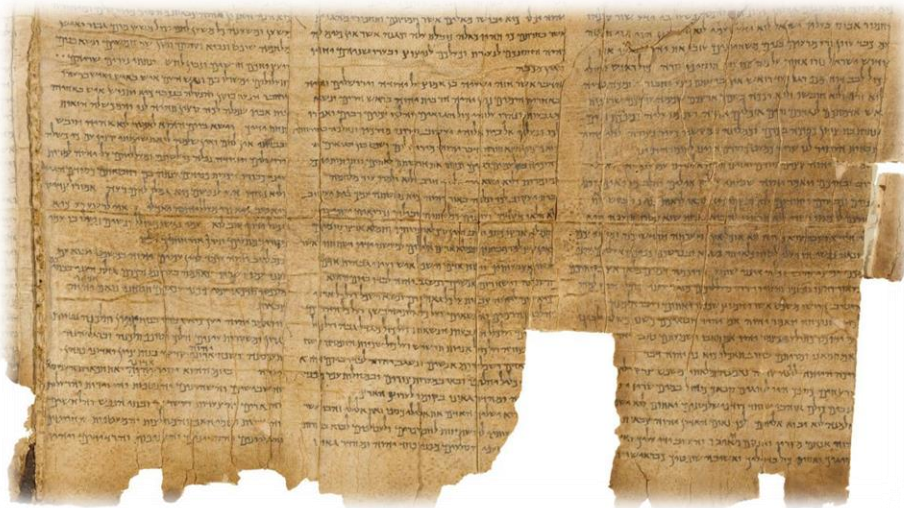
**26 And after they go forth by the hand of the twelve apostles of the Lamb, from the Jews unto the Gentiles, thou seest the formation of that great and abominable church, which is most abominable above all other churches; for behold, they have taken away from the gospel of the Lamb many parts which are plain and most precious; and also many covenants of the Lord have they taken away.**

## Testing this Prophecy

Based off these prophecies made by the Mormon Prophet Nephi, Mormons hold fast to the belief that scribes responsible for copying original scriptures left “plain and precious parts” out due to their own varying theologies, concerns for controversies, human error, and more. It may surprise Mormons to discover that due to the discovery of an abundant number of original manuscripts, such as the Dead Sea Scrolls, Christians have “undeniable evidence that today’s Old and New Testament scriptures, for all practical purposes, are *exactly* the same as they were when originally inspired by God and recorded in the Bible.”



In ancient times, duplications of scripture were made by scribes who would leverage existing manuscripts to copy onto new parchment. If mistakes or omissions were made by the numerous scribes, this would be clear by comparing existing original



manuscripts and identifying the discrepancies and blatant variations in manuscripts developed over time. However, in reviewing the 24,000 partial and complete original manuscripts of



the New Testament alone, we find that there exist absolutely no differences in any of the information found. Among the identified differences, 99% are minor changes such as a missing letter or word variations such as the inscribing of “Jesus Christ” versus “Christ Jesus”. It is concluded by scholars that amongst the minor variations “no doctrine of the Christian faith or any moral commandment is affected by them”. This statement made by the International Council on Biblical Inerrancy sums it up:

*“Thus, in the Bible as we have it (and as it is conveyed to us through faithful translations) we do have for practical purposes the very Word of God, inasmuch as the manuscripts do convey to us the complete vital truth of the originals.”*

It is also worth mentioning there are zero original manuscripts of the Book of Mormon.

This overwhelmingly proves the Prophet Nephi’s prediction that the early church changed the scriptures, and modern day bibles are missing “plain and precious” information, is completely false and these prophesied events truly did not come to pass. As a result, **Nephi is deemed a false prophet by biblical standards.**

Furthermore, these discoveries further validate the credibility of the Bible and its true author and keeper: God Almighty.

### **Mark 13:31**

Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.

### **Matthew 16:18**

And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

### **Matthew 24:35**

Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

### **Isaiah 40:8**

The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever.

## The Prophet Alma

### **Overview**

Also known as Alma the Elder, the Prophet Alma was a Nephite Prophet claimed to have been born in 174 B.C. In the Book of Mormon, Alma is said to have established the Church of Jesus Christ in the Americas during the reign of the wicked King Noah. One of the famous prophecies of Alma is predicting the birthplace of the savior Himself, Jesus Christ.



### **Prophetic Claims: The Savior's Birthplace**

In Alma 7:10, Alma prophesies that the messiah will be born in Jerusalem. This creates a discrepancy between what we find the Biblical prophet Micah prophesying in that Micah claims the savior will be born in Bethlehem, not the holy city of Jerusalem.

#### **Alma 7:10**

**10 And behold, he shall be born of Mary, at Jerusalem which is the land of our forefathers, she being a virgin, a precious and chosen vessel, who shall be overshadowed and conceive by the power of the Holy Ghost, and bring forth a son, yea, even the Son of God.**

#### **MICAH 5:2**

**“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans<sup>[b]</sup> of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”**

## **Testing this Prophecy**

As any credible historian and geographer will tell you, and likely any Christian over the age of 5 years old, Jesus was born in Bethlehem, not Jerusalem. Mormon church officials attempt to defend this discrepancy by claiming that Jerusalem and Bethlehem are so close in proximity that the two may be considered the same in one. The problem with this is it is simply not true... Bethlehem is a city 6 mi south of Jerusalem in which many cities lie between the two and in no way could be considered the same city. As a result, the information prophesied by Alma is incorrect and therefore **Alma, like Nephi, is deemed a false prophet by biblical standards.**

## **The Prophet Joseph Smith**

### **Overview**

Joseph Smith Jr. is the founder of the Mormon Church, known today as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. He is considered by his followers to be divinely inspired and recorded many of his revelations in the Book of Mormon, Doctrine & Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price.



### **Prophetic Claims: The Building of a Temple and a New City**

In one of Joseph Smith's most notorious prophecies, the church leader records in 1832 that Jesus Christ Himself revealed to him that a temple would be built in the western boundaries of Independence, Missouri near the city courthouse. This temple would be constructed in what would be a future city called New

### **Doctrine & Covenants 84:1-1-5**

**"Verily this is the word of the Lord, that the city New Jerusalem shall be built by the gathering of the saints, beginning at this place, even the place of the temple, which temple shall be reared in this generation. For verily this generation shall not all pass away until an house shall be built unto the Lord, and a cloud shall rest upon it, which cloud shall be even the glory of the Lord, which shall fill the house".**

Jerusalem. It was recorded by the church founder that this new city and temple would be built within the generation of those living during the time of the prophecy.

### **Testing this Prophecy**

Within a year of this prophecy the Mormons were forced out of Missouri with no temple ever being built. While Mormon officials offer numerous defenses to explain this inexcusable failed prophecy, the fact remains that any prophet of God, according to the Bible, must be 100% accurate or he is not a prophet inspired of God and is to be put to death (something that happened to Joseph Smith almost a decade later, but that is related to his attempts at covering up his abhorrent lifestyle of polygamy and a story for a different article). Consistent with Deuteronomy 18: 15-22 test of a true prophet, this single failed prophecy proves **the prophet Joseph Smith to be a false prophet** and, as a result, puts the entirety of Joseph Smith's writings and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in question.

### **Prophetic Claims: The Bible is Flawed, Requiring His Inspired Version of the Bible**

The Prophet Joseph Smith claimed a "divine appointment" to make an inspired, "new translation" of the Bible called the Joseph Smith Translation (JST). This translation was based off of the belief that modern bibles and associated church doctrines are flawed and missing information found in the originally inspired scriptures. This body of text created by Joseph Smith was not developed in the typical process of a scholar but was more of a "revelatory experience" Joseph Smith supposedly had while reading the KJV Bible. Although a formal description of the process was not offered, it appears he would read from the KJV Bible while a scribe would record his revelations. Changes were made to at least 3,400 verses ranging from minor alterations to fully reconstructed chapters.

## Testing This Prophecy

One of the critical pieces of church history that Joseph Smith and the Mormon Church were not aware of at the time of its beginning was the discovery of original Hebrew Bible and New Testament



manuscripts. As discussed previously in the testing of the Prophet Nephi, the ancient, original manuscripts prove that what is found in modern bibles match exactly what the apostles themselves held, studied, and cherished. In the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, an entire book of Isaiah was found. In the JST, Joseph Smith adds pages upon pages of “inspired scripture” to

the book of Isaiah. Clearly, this is just another example that the “revelations” of Joseph Smith are false - these are merely additions made by a man, a false prophet, rather than missing text inspired by God and returned unto a prophet.

The real danger associated with Joseph Smith’s collective writings is what the bible has to say about anyone who preaches any other gospel and/or adds onto God’s word.

Do not add to His words or He will reprove you, and you will be proved a **liar**.

**Proverbs 30:6**

But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God’s curse!

**Galatians 1:8**

There are even more examples of Joseph Smith adding to God’s word, and the contradictions and fallacies are fairly apparent. One instance is a change he made to John 1:1 to strip Jesus of His deity. The earliest copy of this gospel in existence is dated at 150AD. Whether you think Joseph Smith is a true prophet of God



or not, John was an eyewitness of Jesus and is much more of a credible source than Smith. Basic logic should warrant suspicion to Smith's attempt to correct the apostle and claim his text to be more "inspired by God".

Another example is found in Joseph Smith's additions made to the Book of Romans. Romans 4:16 speaks of salvation and that we are saved by grace. Smith adds in "by grace and works" to fit the belief of Mormonism that you are saved in a large way by works. Again, this is not just error added by a man's imagination, it has potentially eternal consequences.

## **Joseph Smith: Questionable Conduct and Doctrine**

### **Overview**

It is critical to recognize that Mormons revere and admire Joseph Smith; he holds almost a God-like status. This is completely shocking considering the number of documented events in which he is involved in deceitful, outlandish, and even criminal behavior. This becomes less surprising once one discovers the amazing effort the church has taken to address the controversies and present well-constructed defenses for nearly every single one. While this campaign to control the narrative of his past has been effective in settling members who raise questions, it cannot erase the grimy details of the events that are available in the plethora of documented stories concerning Smith and his dark past. This section aims to arm the reader with the true facts of who the real Joseph Smith was.

### **Polygamy**

Mormons are taught that Joseph Smith was given a revelation from God, through an angelic messenger, to enter plural marriage. Smith claims that he was very hesitant to do this as he felt morally and spiritually convicted that it was detestable to God. This angel was said to visit Smith three times between 1834 and 1842 urging Smith to institute this practice and that he would receive blessing

for observing the command. Should he disobey, Smith said the angel threatened him with death.

Interestingly enough, a year before Smith claims to have been given this vision, and over ten years before the practice was made known publicly to the church body, Smith took his first plural wife in 1833, 16 year old Fanny Alger. The union between Smith and Alger was done in secret and kept from his very own wife. Smith would continue to enter plural marriages up until the day of his death – a death that was caused as a direct result of his lude polygamous behavior. Many of his marriages were not only done in secret but were to underage women and some to women already married to other men.

A breakdown of the true facts concerning the “prophet’s” involvement in plural marriage is highlighted, below:

- The revelation of plural marriage given to Prophet Joseph Smith was recorded in 1843.
- Smith had +/- 40 wives, the youngest being 14 years old. Many were done in secret, unknown to his legal wife, Emma. She struggled terribly with his plural marriages until the day of his death.
- 1/3 of Joseph Smith’s wives were 14-20 years old. 30% of these wives were married to other men at the time of their union with Joseph Smith. 35% involved sexual relations.
- His first plural marriage was with 16 yo Fanny Alger, in 1833 – ten years before the revelation was shared with the church. Smith was 28 at the time of their secret union.

In Jacob 2:24 (Book of Mormon), plural marriage is described as “abominable”. This was transcribed by Smith at the very time that he was practicing polygamy. Joseph Smith was ultimately murdered by an angry mob in 1844, while imprisoned for treason and disorderly conduct, for reasons related to the polygamy controversy among other things.

## **CONCLUSION**

The below quote by a prolific Mormon Church member states what every person reading this should now conclude, or at the very least begin pondering:

**“THE MORMON CHURCH STANDS OR FALLS WITH JOSEPH SMITH. Mormonism, as it is called, must stand or fall on the story of Joseph Smith. He was either a prophet of God, divinely called, properly appointed and commissioned, or he was one of the biggest frauds this world has ever seen. There is no middle ground.”**

- Joseph Fielding Smith, 1954-1956